

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NAIROB 11571 071521Z

ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DHA-02 IO-06

PM-03 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 INR-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INRE-00 H-01 EB-04 /044 W

-----129610 071524Z /53

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1176

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 11571

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, UG

SUBJECT: U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARDS UGANDAN EXECUTIONS

1. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CHIEFS OF MISSION RESIDENT IN NAIROBI BUT ACCREDITED TO UGANDA, I HAVE FOUND DEEP SENSE OF REVULSION WHICH MATCHES MY OWN AT PROSPECT OF MASS EXECUTION OF TWELVE UGANDANS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING AGAINST AMIN. AT MY SUGGESTION I AM CONFIDENT THAT PAPAL NUNCIO AND POSSIBLY SOME OTHER DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS MAY ATTEMPT QUIETLY TO INDUCE UGANDA GOVERNMENT NOT TO CARRY OUT EXECUTIONS. WHILE I AM MINDFUL OF DIFFICULTIES IN RAISING ISSUES THAT MAY BE REGARDED AS INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOVEREIGN STATES, I FEEL THAT IN KEEPING WITH OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE WE SHOULD EXAMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANYTHING WE COULD DO TO STOP THESE EXECUTIONS. WE ARE BOUND TO DEPLORE THE EXECUTIONS AFTER THE FACT; HOW MUCH BETTER IT WOULD BE TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME.

2. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT WE MIGHT TAKE ONE OR BOTH OF FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

A. EXPRESS TO UGANDAN CHARGE IN WASHINGTON OUR CONFIDENTIAL

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CONCERN OVER THE PLANNED EXECUTIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THE IMPACT ON AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION CAN ONLY DO HARM TO OUR RELATIONS, STRENGTHENING ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO ARGUE FOR ECONOMIC BOYCOTT OF UGANDA.

B. INSPIRE A QUESTION AT NOON BRIEFING ABOUT EXECUTIONS, TO WHICH DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN WOULD RESPOND BY STATING HOPE THAT SENTENCES WOULD BE COMMUTED.

3. SINCE EXECUTIONS ARE SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 9, ANYTHING WE DO MUST BE DONE QUICKLY.
PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS
MIGHT ALSO BE

HELPFUL, ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT THINK OF MANY NON-
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE OPINION MIGHT MAKE A
DIFFERENCE TO THE UGANDA LEADERSHIP.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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